



Newsletter

February – March 2015

“There For Our Members Whenever and Wherever They Need Us”

Welcome to this edition, 2015

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Consumers are being exposed to a booming trade in Chinese products laced with asbestos, as border-security officials admit to a limited capacity to stop contaminated goods entering Australia, potentially contributing to a fresh wave of asbestos disease.

The government has conceded it is unable to guarantee Chinese imports are free of asbestos amid mounting evidence of its use in the car, mining and building industries, with unscrupulous importers and exporters failing to guarantee the safety of goods.

As the government deals with the fallout from the contaminated Chinese berries scandal, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service officials told The Australian that, despite the best efforts of the organisation, it was unable to guarantee the safety of imported Chinese goods.

It said that while existing legislation made illegal the introduction of asbestos products to Australia, its efforts were “proportionate to the level of risk”. “ACBPS is not able to guarantee that all imported goods will be free of asbestos. Importers are responsible for ensuring the goods they import are free from asbestos and must declare this on import documentation,” the department said.

Unions and asbestos groups are alarmed at the potential harm to consumers and workers, with examples of asbestos recently found in cheap plasterboard from China a recipe for disaster for plasterers, gaskets, trains, mining equipment and other vehicles.

The extent of the problem facing local consumers first became known in 2012, when Ateco Automotive recalled more than 23,000 Great Wall and Chery Chinese cars after asbestos was found in the engine and exhaust gaskets. Ateco Automotive said the asbestos was bound into gaskets in the engine and exhaust system, but argued that it did not present any risk to consumers during the use of the vehicle. Almost 30 different gaskets contained asbestos.

The biggest risk was to any mechanic or auto electrician who worked on the vehicles.

The above sourced from The Australian Feb.2015

The big problem we see is that it was decided that a warning sticker be placed in the engine bay of the vehicles so that when replacement was required the person doing the job would know there was asbestos present. As most of us would know a sticker under the bonnet would get dirty and probably not even be obvious after some years. While the risk maybe considered minimal the risk is still there.

The question now is how do we know just how many imported products coming into Australia are contaminated with asbestos, and who should be held responsible.

Many thousands of people have died because of asbestos

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Something to Ponder?

If everything seems to be going well, You have obviously overlooked something?

When everything is coming your way your in the wrong lane



KATZ_KORNER

We were fortunate enough to receive a donation from a grateful family (who wish to remain anonymous) for all the help we gave them in their time of sadness. So we purchased a portable mobility scooter which will be a great help when we do the country shows.

We are all getting on in years and at the show we are forever having to go get more info from our trailer which is usually parked a fair distance away. We will be attending the Lucindale Field Days March 20th and 21st 2015.

AVA has already started making bookings for 2015 Regional shows and Field Days, taking bookings from Suburban Community Groups etc, so if you belong to any group and would like us to come and do a presentation about asbestos, contact us and we will work out details.

T: (08) 8212 6008 or E: ava-sa@bigpond.net.au

You will notice we have enclosed some info on an idea suggested by some of the people who have had their lives affected by asbestos.

We encourage you to read through, and if you have any suggestions let them be known. We realise that initially if this gets off the ground it would be predominantly suburban and close country areas but we would welcome any other ideas you may have

WHYALLA SUB BRANCH

John Arthur reports

Hi all,

Things have been rather quiet since Xmas, even the meeting numbers have been down. We have a few that their health is not so good

And we have lost a few members. I would still like to see some of the older members turn up for our get together that is held every third Thursday of each month. Lunch is held at 12 noon on the day.

If any one has any spare jam jars they would like to part with they can drop them off at our office in Essington Lewis Ave or give us a phone call on 86450555

John

Meeting Dates:

Venue:

Third Thursday of each month

87 Essington Lewis Ave, Whyalla. Phone: 8645 0555

PORT AUGUSTA SUB BRANCH

Geoff Maul reports

Dear Members

Happy New Year to all

It has been sad to lose two of our members and we extend our sympathy to the Kroes and Fidler Families. Thank you to Garry Smith for his help through out the year

Colleen and myself thank our members for their participation thru' 2014

We invite anyone, who would like attend, to come along to our monthly meetings which are held on the **First Friday of each month. 10:00 am from February 2015 onwards**

Please Note there will be no meeting held during May 2015 as Colleen and myself will be away that month

Venue: Port Augusta Bowling Club, Corner Marryatt & Jervois Street. You can contact Geoff on 8642 2884.

Part of speech to Parliament in Canberra taken from Hansard

Mr Nick Champion (Wakefield) I have to thank the member for Shortland for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. I echo the words of previous speakers in congratulating her on this effort.

Some of my earliest memories as a child are of not being able to breathe—of having asthma and being taken down to the women's and children's hospital in the middle of the night by my mum. It is a particularly terrifying thing if you happen to experience it, particularly if you are young. But it is also pretty terrifying for those around you. I think my mother still has a fair bit of distress about those memories. I think she found it very worrying—having to make those emergency visits to the hospital with a sick child in the middle of the night. My grandmother had emphysema at the same time, so she and I shared a common bond, but my mother, who could breathe but had to take care of us both, really felt it. I think we need to be mindful of that impact on families when we discuss lung disease.

On Friday I was at the Asbestos Victims Association Memorial Day in Pitman Park in Salisbury. The City of Salisbury has a memorial to honour those who have suffered from and lost their lives to asbestosis, to mesothelioma or to lung cancer. It allows the families of those victims to honour them and to acknowledge their passing. This would not have happened but for the efforts and the energy of Terry Miller OAM, who has long been passionate—one of the most passionate people I have ever met—not just about honouring families and making sure that the victims, and the families of those victims, of asbestosis are looked after but also about prevention and making sure that others do not suffer from that terrible but entirely preventable disease.

At that event we heard from a lady named Tracey. She gave a stirring, heartfelt address to those present about the death of her husband, Rob Dietrich. It was one of those passionate addresses that did not leave many dry eyes among those present at that event. Even the MC had tears in her eyes. I had tears in my eyes. Nearly every politician there was affected by Tracey's very passionate address about what had been a very terrible death and the impact on her children, Andrew and Maddison, of the loss of their father—and the impact on her of the loss of her husband. As I said before, it did not leave a dry eye at the event. It made us all too aware of the importance not just of preventing asbestosis but of Lung Health Awareness Month and the importance of this motion coming before the House.

Lung disease affects families and it is something we need to be cognisant of when we are looking at our health budget—10 per cent of the overall health burden in Australia, 20,000 deaths, three per cent of hospitalisations and one in 10 Australians affected by lung disease. We do not have to go too far in this debate to hear from people who have suffered from asthma or who have family members who have had to care for those with lung diseases, so we know that this is an important motion. It deserves the efforts and energies of all of us in the House. I congratulate the member for Shortland for bringing this motion forward and all the other speakers in the debate. It is important that these motions are bipartisan, that we show our care and concern for those who are suffering—particularly for the families of those who are suffering from these very distressing diseases and events. My concern and my thoughts are with all of them.

Nick Champion is the Member for Wakefield and has been a long time supporter of AVA and asbestos issues

YOUR SOCIAL MORNINGS

These mornings are held in our rooms at Level 3 - 60 Waymouth Street Adelaide on the SECOND Wednesday of every month, starting at 10am, but early birds are welcome, and you can stay as long or as little as suits you.

They are not formal meetings, so that gives each of you an opportunity to meet with and talk to others who maybe in a similar situation.



Dates for 2015 Social Mornings

Remember you are not alone.

March 11th, April 8th, May 13th June 10th, July 8th, August 12th,

September 9th, October 14th, November 11th, December 9th, 2015



TIME IS RUNNING OUT

FREE BASIC WILL FOR OUR MEMBERS & PARTNER

As grim a topic as it might be, it is one of those 'talks' we should all have – and sooner rather than later.

I'm talking about death and incapacity; thinking about questions such as who you would want to give your assets to when you pass away, who should be your executor and manage your estate, as well as who you would want making medical and lifestyle decisions for you if you were unable to make them yourself.

Planning for the future and life's 'what ifs' is something you should do not only for your own peace of mind, but also for that of your loved ones. Estate planning saves your family and friends the added stress, cost and time of trying to sort out your affairs for you, at an already difficult and distressing time for them. The three most important estate planning documents are your Will, Enduring Power of Attorney and Advance Care Direction.

Phone us for more information

(08) 8213 1000



Please Put This IMPORTANT Date In Your Diary NOW

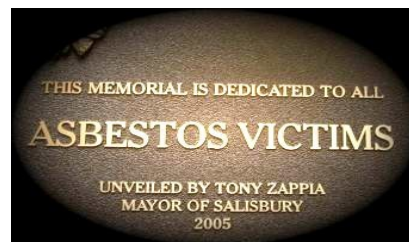
Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: Friday November 27th 2015

VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY

TIME: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Speakers TBA



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